

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, July 1, 2013

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

Members present: Mimi Deem, Marguerite Garrick, Laurel Harrington, Michelle Harris, Melanie Tamsky and Mark Stapleton.

Absent: Ira Berkowitz, Brad Bernstein, Darryl Higuchi, Andrea Maddox-Dallas and Eric Schneider

Also Present: Patty DeForrest and Denise Ucinski.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

Clayton residents addressed the Commission. Residents stated that the Maryland School property is currently utilized for baseball games, bike riding and the community garden.

City of Clayton Park Land Report:

Ms. DeForrest presented the City of Clayton Park Land report to the Commission. She spoke about existing park land and the need for park land as recommended in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ms. DeForrest also provided an update on priority projects in the Master Plan that have not been completed.

The presentation showed all Clayton parks and their amenities as well as how the City acquired the park land. The City does have a history of purchasing land for parks. Henry Wright Park was donated to the City and Concordia Park is leased from Concordia Seminary. Anderson Park was purchased in 2012 with assistance from a FEMA grant.

Ms. DeForrest stated that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan analysis showed future park land acquisition should focus on land for pocket parks, play lots and neighborhood park land. Additionally it states that the City should strive to acquire park land whenever considering large scale redevelopment within the City. Although the greatest need is for Neighborhood Parks, the master plan indicated that meeting the need would be difficult because the City is developed and mature. The park land distribution map showed overlapping park land which included park service areas and school service areas. Underserved neighborhoods were also shown on the map. Ms. DeForrest noted that one of the underserved areas was in the neighborhoods surrounding Anderson Park; this need was met by obtaining 4.56 acres of park land. Gay Field was not included as park land on the map and was not typically utilized by the public; however usage of Gay Field has changed since 2007. Residents use the track and the Parks and Recreation Department uses the field. Due to the changes, it may be a good idea to update the park land distribution map.

The Hanley House Council's final recommendation in 2007 stated that the City of Clayton explore expansion of the Hanley House park site to ensure long-term effectiveness of the Hanley House as an educational and cultural resource for the community for generations to come. Based on stakeholder interviews the 2010 Hanley House Master Plan identified acquiring more park land as a top priority.

Funded and non-funded capital projects were reviewed. Ms. DeForrest stated that the funded capital projects included in the report had not begun but are included in the FY14 budget. The non-funded capital projects included in the Master Plan are ranked but not funded.

After the presentation Ms. DeForrest indicated that the Commission could make a recommendation to the BOA to explore the acquisition of all or part of the Maryland School Property. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of making a recommendation. Mr. Stapleton stated that there was not enough information available about the cost, size and staffing it would take to maintain the property. Another strong concern about making the recommendation was in regards to fiscal responsibility.

When asked about the status of the school property, Jane Klamer, a school board member in the audience informed the Commission that the Bracken Building has been sold and they have been getting some offers on the Maryland School property. There are approximately four acres of land for sale.

Ms. Harris told the Commission that things have not changed since the BOA was originally asked to discuss purchasing the property. However, everyone on the board is willing to think outside of the box to come up with a solution. The outcome on obtaining green space comes down to cost versus benefit.

After the park land discussion, Ms. Tamsky made the following recommendation to the BOA: Based upon changing conditions of the Maryland School property, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the City revisit the purchase of all or part of the Maryland School property for green space and revisit the allocation; conditions for location and size of green space within the City of Clayton by updating that part of the Master Plan. Ms. Harrington seconded the recommendation and all were in favor.

Director's Report

Anderson Park: Ms. DeForrest presented a picture of the existing signage at the entrance to Anderson Park; the sign currently states "Haddington Court." Ms. DeForrest asked the Commission to consider changing the lettering on the current sign to Anderson Park; the cost to complete the stone work would be approximately three thousand dollars. There were concerns about the size of the letters and, after discussing a couple of other possible options the Commission recommended that Ms. DeForrest move forward with a sign that will be simple, easy to read and cost effective.

Shaw Park: The Shaw Park Recreational Trail project will be completed within by the end of July. The Moneta Garden and outdoor Fitness Center will be finished and opened by the time the trail is open as they are considered to be part of the trail project. Sod may be used instead of seeding around the trail.

Site work began on the Enterprise Holdings Pavilion last week.

Jacobs and SWT had a great discussion in reference to making sure their plans flow together. They are preparing a final presentation and will present it to the BOA in September.

Ms. DeForrest stated that the Fourth of July event at the Shaw Park Aquatic Center will be an excellent event with great entertainment and activities throughout the day.

Hanley Park: The Hanley House will re-open on Saturday, July 13.

Old Business / New Business: Mr. Stapleton asked if Wydown Field was going to be grass or turf. Ms. DeForrest said it would grass. Ms. Deem mentioned that Washington University is doing major work on the old CBC property and installing artificial turf fields.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski